

by the Retirement Committee and introduced by its members. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 4 of this year, referred to the Retirement Systems Committee for hearing and was advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, spent a lot of time debating the early retirement issue on judges in a previous bill. This bill is the alternative that I talked about at that time. The previous bill said a judge who early retired received full benefits even though they retired early. This bill says if you retire early as a judge, you will receive actuarially reduced benefits, so you don't get the full benefits but would allow them to retire early and receive a proportion of their money back. This is what we do for all other public employees, State employees, school employees, University employees, county employees. It's something that doesn't cost any more money and does provide some flexibility. The only public employee group in the state that doesn't have this actuarially reduced employee early retirement benefit is the judges and they deserve this legislation.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: I'd like to address a couple questions of Senator Wesely.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, would you be available for, respond to questions, please?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: I remember earlier, Senator Wesely, when we were debating Senator Goodrich's bill on judges retirement, you indicated a bill would be coming along that would address the problem. Is this that bill?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Now let me ask you just one question. Does a judge have to put in a certain amount of time in